

## **Copy Protection Devices:**

My position is that I am opposed to any form of copy protection integrated into display devices. If the copy protection remains in an enhanced DVD player or digital VCR, so be it, as long as the output signal quality is not degraded. Persons intent on theft will find a way to recover signals from inside display devices equipped with decoders anyway, so why burden the consumer systems with additional complexity, costs, and maintenance burdens? Further, if the proposal is not for an international standard, why burden the US taxpayers?

## **Recording to Preserve History and Culture:**

There is another overriding issue, and that is that copying should not be prevented by the devices, while playback may be. An anti-playback devices should be designed to recognize a time limited (time stamped) copyright, so that our culture can be recorded for posterity. Certainly libraries and scholars should be allowed to record transmissions.

## **Consumer Issues:**

The issue of copy protection seems to be an overwhelming one for consumers. For one, I feel that it is widely overblown by the producers. I am not interested in copying material for other than my own use, and I suspect that this is the paradigm the vast majority of all consumers will follow. I will be more than annoyed if my roughly \$7000 investment is compromised by Hollywood, and if this happens, I will join in appropriate class-action law-suits which are certain to arise.

I suppose that without copy protection the value of program source for re-runs will be diminished. Hoorah! Perhaps someone will recognize that entertainers are wildly overpaid and cost reductions...free market forces... should come into play! Ultimately perhaps the costs associated with satellite and even cable source material could be reduced, resulting in lower costs to consumers for these services. It is hard for me to imagine that the pap provided in the sort of network shows that provide their own laugh tracks needs to be protected. The bottom line that I see is that copy protection preserves a form of unregulated monopoly that we never needed. After all, even though we have had paper copiers for many years (and now even the internet), we still buy newspapers, magazines and books. The advent of VCRs did not destroy the aftermarket movie business either, rather DVD and VHS technology has given new markets to Hollywood producers.

## **A Recommendation:**

I recommend that copy protection circuits may be installed (once an international standard has been engineered and approved by all countries), but that when the technology is standardized, it may not be activated for a period of ten years. This will give the early adopters a chance to amortize their investments. Alternatively, if Hollywood is willing to replace all installed HD equipment at their cost, almost anything will be acceptable. If they want the benefit, they should bear the cost, not the consumer.